



Attachment 2b  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET TEAM  
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**FROM:** PHILLIP SMITH-HANES, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** RESPONSE TO 2010-11 GRAND JURY REPORT 2011-CD/AF-03  
**DATE:** 9/28/2011

The 2010-11 Grand Jury has issued report 2011-CD/AF-03 and the Board of Supervisors is required to respond to the recommendation of this report. I recommend that the Board respond as follows:

Recommendation: *The Grand Jury recognizes this apparent conflict as originating not with the County but with the State. We strongly recommend the Board of Supervisors understand the gravity of this problem and make serious attempts to rectify this at the state level. This issue should be addressed directly and immediately by the Board of Supervisors to the State. Grand juries have addressed this problem in the past with no apparent action forthcoming from the Board of Supervisors. We also encourage the Board of Supervisors to approach the state in collaboration with other counties which fall under the jurisdiction of the Subdivision Map Act and Timber Productivity Act to resolve this problem. We recommend a proactive approach to this problem so as not to continue with the appearance of the conflict in state law that currently seems to exist.*

**This recommendation will not be implemented, because it is not warranted.**

The Subdivision Map Act and the requirements of the Revenue and Taxation Code that deal with assignment of an Assessor's parcel number (which are far broader than the Timber Productivity Act) exist for two separate and distinct purposes. There is little reason for the State to amend either of these statutory frameworks when the real issue is, as the Grand Jury noted, one of communication. It is the responsibility of County officials, including the Assessor's Office and the Community Development Services Department, to adequately inform property owners about the differences between parcel numbers that are assigned for taxation purposes and legally subdivided parcels that may be buildable.

As accurately noted by the Grand Jury, much confusion has been eliminated due to the fact that the Assessor's Office and the Planning Division have worked in tandem with County Counsel to address parcels in the County that were issued Assessor's parcel numbers for tax purposes but were not legally recognized parcels under the Subdivision Map Act. These offices will continue to work together to improve communication to the public; it is not necessary to seek changes in State law in order to address the Grand Jury's primary concern.

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The County recognizes that property sellers, realtors and title companies also have an obligation to ensure that prospective buyers are well-informed about the legal status of Assessor's Parcels prior to purchase or transfer.